GENERAL SECRETARIAT.

Reviews the Report on the Progress of Krishnarajasagara and allied works for the year 1927-28.

READ—

Letter No. 2397—K. S. S., dated the 20th November 1928, from the Chief Engineer, Krishnarajasagara Works, forwarding a report on the progress of the Krishnarajasagara and allied works for the year 1927-28.

ORDER NO. G. 7476-88—G. M. 70-28-3, DATED 17TH DECEMBER 1928.

Recorded.

2. Mr. K. R. Seshachar, B.A., B.E., C.E., continued to be in administrative charge of the operations throughout the year.

3. *Important Measures.*—The most important of the works sanctioned and in progress during the year was the Irwin Canal Project which is expected to bring under irrigation an additional area of 1,20,000 acres of land after full development. The total estimated cost of the project amounts to Rs. 222 lakhs the first section of it which is 24½ miles in length costing Rs. 74·65 lakhs; the second section involving the boring of a tunnel 9,133 feet long costing Rs. 45·62 lakhs and the third section lying between the Karighatta range of hills and the Cauvery and Shimsha rivers and commanding large tracts in the dry Taluks of Mandya, Malvalli and T.-Narsipur costing Rs. 101·73 lakhs. The work progressed very rapidly during the year. Divisions were organised to execute the work; arrangements were nearly completed for starting the tunnel work along six faces and boring was done for some distance on two faces. In view of the magnitude and importance of the project, a Land Acquisition Officer was specially appointed and the preliminary acquisition work for lands required for the canal and other purposes for a distance of nearly 29 miles from Krishnarajasagara was commenced and payment of compensation made. The total outlay on account of the project during the year was Rs. 28,39,444 against the final grant of Rs. 28 lakhs. With a view to ensure proper financial control over expenditure in connection with this large and important project, the appointment of a Deputy Comptroller was sanctioned exclusively for Krishnarajasagara Works. The Krishnarajasagara Committee of which Sir M. Visvesvaraya is the Chairman met during the year and considered questions relating to the system of irrigation to be adopted under the canal and the rates of contribution and water rate to be levied. Their final recommendations on these points are awaited.

Good progress was secured during the year in the construction of the Yedatore New Town for which an estimate for Rs. 3,58,000 was sanctioned during the previous year. Water supply works were completed and water service was given from December 1927. All the roads pertaining to the lay-out were fully formed. Several public buildings such as the Taluk Cutcherry, the Musafirkhana, the Travellers' Bungalow, the combined Dispensary and Midwife's quarters were all completed during the year. But progress in the building of houses by private persons was slow and to accelerate this work, the Town Formation Committee was reconstituted and a few model houses are also proposed to be constructed by Government for sale to the public.

A Committee was constituted to go into the question of the levy of water rate for supply of water during the hot weather from the Krishnarajasagara in the non-mamool tracts for growing sugar-cane and other crops as representations were made in and outside the Representative Assembly for a revision of the existing orders and Government approved of the recommendations made by the Committee.

4. *Grant and Outlay.*—The total grant for the Krishnarajasagara and allied works under all heads was Rs. 36,64,325 as against Rs. 12,76,059 in the previous year. This included among other items a grant of Rs. 33,21,600 under capital expenditure (of which 28 lakhs was for the Irwin Canal), Rs. 1 58,700 under revenue expenditure and Rs. 84,841 under Irrigation Cess, District and Palace Funds. The total outlay during the year was Rs. 35,47,830 of which a major portion, namely, Rs. 28,39,444 was spent in connection with the Irwin Canal Works.

5. *Construction.*—The construction of the Krishnarajasagara Dam to the required height of 130 feet was completed during the year including the parapet walls on the dam and ornamental towers and pillars at intervals; and the Electrical Department took up the erection of ornamental lights on the top of the dam. The storage in the reservoir was utilised for the generation of electric power as well as for the irrigation of about 5,500 acres direct from the reservoir and for the hot weather irrigation of nearly 37,000 acres under the old channels. Fairly good progress was made in connection with the formation of new villages in place of those submerged. The construction of two temples in these villages was practically completed and the *Sanku-sthapana* or foundation laying ceremony was performed for the construction of three more temples and the gopuram works were in hand.

6. *Acquisition.*—The preliminary acquisition work for lands required for the Irwin Canal and other purposes for a distance of nearly 29 miles from Krishnarajasagara was commenced and payment of compensation made. Payments made for permanent acquisition amounted to Rs. 88,696 against a grant of Rs. 1,06,000. Government lands of the aggregate value of Rs. 19,524 were given in exchange to the expropriated raiyats. Cash compensation paid was Rs. 90,850 and crop compensation Rs. 6,717.

7. *Canals.*—The extension of the Ramanathapur channel was practically completed and that of the Krishnarajasagara right bank low level canal was completed. An estimate amounting to Rs. 70,000 was sanctioned during the year for the preparation of a detailed project for the Kabbini reservoir and canals. Extension of irrigation under some of the existing river channel such as Ramasamudram, Madhavamantri and Chikdevarayasagara were sanctioned during the year and excavations were in progress. Orders were passed during the year increasing the mileage allotment of some of the channels in the Cauvery valley to enable annual maintenance being better attended to.

The outlay under the irrigation cess fund for the annual and special repairs of the irrigation works in the Cauvery valley was Rs. 1,00,253 against the grant of Rs. 84,841. Irrigation is steadily developing under the Chamaraj Right Bank Channel. It has reached almost full development under the Hemagiri and Low Level Canals and almost the entire extent awarded under the Mandagere Channel extension.

8. *Progress of Cultivation.*—The area irrigated under the low level canals below and the new channels above the reservoir was about 21,270 acres, the increase during the year being only 594 acres. Works for further extension of irrigation under the Madhavamantri, Ramasamudram, Chikdevarayasagara and other channels to the extent of 1,425 acres were in progress. The slow development of cultivation is explained as being largely due to the shortage of water in the river during the break between the south-west and north-east monsoons and to paucity of cultivators. The Chief Engineer considers it inadvisable to further increase the irrigable area as it is likely to give rise to complaints of inadequate supplies of water at the tail end of the channels in the critical period of the year referred to above. He is also of the opinion that, as the total increase permissible according to the agreement between Mysore and Madras is about 33 per cent of the irrigated area as it stood in the year 1910 and Mysore has to pass compensation water at very low duties to Madras for increased areas above the permissible limit, it is a serious point for consideration whether further increase of cultivation above the reservoir should not be restricted. Detailed proposals promised by the Chief Engineer in this connection are awaited.

9. *General.*—The floods during the year at Krishnarajasagara were below normal and the regulation of water through the sluices was attended to with promptness to meet the demands of power and the monsoon and hot weather irrigation in keeping with the rules of regulation under the agreement with Madras. The canal and tunnel works were inspected by Sir M. Visvesvaraya, Chairman of the Krishnarajasagara Committee, who has commended the rapid progress achieved during the year without the sacrifice of efficiency and economy. The works were also inspected by the Dewan in October 1928. Government are glad to find that, under the able guidance of Mr. K. R. Seshachar, the staff employed on the Krishnarajasagara Works showed commendable enthusiasm in their work and achieved substantial progress in the execution of important projects during the year.

R. RANGA RAO,
General Secretary to Government.